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## Sound Foreign Policy.

Timely observations about the international situation, which may become even more explosive before today's sun sets at Berlin, were forthcoming at Des Moines last night from Secretary Hull, in an address before the National Farm Institute. As might have been expected from the statesman who is devoting himself to economic disarmament, he concentrated on expounding the philosophy and reporting the results of his reciprocal trade program.

The latter thoroughly establish the soundness of Judge Hull's claim that he is pursuing a policy which is not only redounding to the advantage of American industry and agriculture, but benefiting all those other countries which have entered into give-and-take agreements with the United States. The Secretary of State strikes the note which underlies his zeal when he says that "prosperity and peace go hand in hand. To promote one is to promote the other. The economic well-being of the people is the greatest single protection against social unrest, civil strife, war-mongering and war." And he as pertinently adds: "In combating the world-wide trend toward economic isolation, we are working for peace."

It is naturally when the cabinet officer directly responsible for conduct of our foreign policy turns to the current phase of his task that Secretary Hull is on ground which rivets major attention. At no time since the Senate preserved the United States from involvement in the vagaries and vicissitudes of the pusillanimous League of Nations have external relations so absorbed the country. They should do so, for nothing less than the people's lives, honor and private fortunes is at stake. Seldom before, in times of so-called peace, has there been greater need for sagacity, courage and vigilance on the bridge where foreign policy is charted.

Cordell Hull's speech in the Corn Belt is reassuring evidence that a forthright helmsman is at the wheel. He is no chicken-hearted isolationist; nor, Wilsonian devotee that he once was, do today's stern realities amid "a world in high tension" find him afflicted by impractical idealism. He seems to thrust straight at certain of our die-hard irreconcilables who, with blurred vision, see salvation for this country only in aloofness from a world in travail, and labor under the delusion that, powerful and peace-craving as we are, we can paddle our own canoe in serene certainty that danger will never overtake us as long as we let others stew in their own juice and exclusively wallow in our domestic brand of the same.

It would be difficult to epitomize in terser or more convincing terms the international course of the United States at this critical hour than it is set forth in what deserves to be known as the Hull Doctrine. "We should be governed," he declares, "in our relations with other nations, by those fundamental principles of justice, morality, good-will and friendliness which, in civilized international relationships, underlie order under law and with economic security as its chief foundation. We should exercise every ounce of our moral influence in urging other nations to be governed, in their international relationships, by these same principles. Without entering into any entangling involvements or commitments, we should co-operate to every practicable extent with other peace-seeking nations toward keeping these vital principles alive everywhere. We should maintain adequate defensive forces to the end that this Nation will be respected throughout the world. At the same time we should stand unalterably for general limitation and reduction of armaments."

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Horace Greely said "Go West young man and grow up with the country." He would now be saying, "Come back East and see whether you have been missing any tricks."

## Jobless in the Recession.

Three million persons have lost their jobs in the past three months.

This is President Roosevelt's own estimate of the result, to date, of the "recession." The Federal Government has set for itself the precedent of caring in some measure for the jobless. In the face of this precedent it is inevitable that there be an emergency appropriation—the quarter of a billion dollars asked by the Chief Executive for the rest of the fiscal year. By June the situation may have cured itself.

The enormous loss of jobs reported, quite aside from the question of relief, is a startling reminder of how far American industry still is from a stable condition. In three months relative prosperity, such as seemed to be near at hand last summer, can change into "hard times." Three millions out of work are three million less customers. And it will require fewer workers to provide goods for three million less. Hitherto not so much has been heard in Washington of this side of the "recession"—a side which came to such prominence in the "depression." We are just getting around to a comprehension of the present situation in terms of human welfare.

Local social agencies, it may be pointed out, have realized ever since Christmas the seriousness of the situation and have been faced with an extremely difficult problem in coping with it.

This, it may be, is a critical time when a patriotic stand by everybody—by the employer in sustaining his pay roll to the utmost of his capacity, by the Government and relief agencies in seeing that there is no waste of the money available—may mean the difference between more prolonged hard times and a merely temporary dip in the economic roller-coaster upon which American business seems to be riding.

## Time to Face Realities.

The stray cat of industry, the railroad problem, is back on the White House doorstep again, and from all indications a saucer of milk and a pat on the back are not going to be sufficient.

The railroads have been in almost a perpetual state of "emergency" since wartime, and while officials voice optimism if pending freight and passenger increases are granted and if business picks up, astute observers are warning against putting too much faith in the efficacy of possible rate boosts, and the traffic upturn "if" is, after all, only an "if."

In fact, the situation is reaching a point where the necessity of a major operation is becoming apparent, and a logical approach to that is the scaling down of some capital structures to reduce fixed charges, and the abandonment of unprofitable operations. Inevitably somebody would be hurt in a program of this nature, but otherwise a lot of people are going to be hurt, for—despite protestations to the contrary—the present drift is toward the field of Government ownership, which would give the taxpayers the dubious privilege of footing bills for abuses for which they are in no way responsible.

This country has the best railroad brains in the world. There are men who have managed their properties in the face of unregulated and uneconomic competition they never should have been called upon to combat, and still have shown profit—or at least have held losses down. It is these whose counsel now should be taken rather than those to whom a railroad has been nothing more than an instrument for financial manipulation.

The country has to have railroads, and a stabilized rail industry, as a part of an integrated transportation system, economically operated, would contribute more to the prosperity of the United States as a whole than all the "planned economy" that could be devised.

When the rail leaders meet with President Roosevelt, everybody concerned might just as well realize that the time has come to get down to cases. Only in that way is there hope.

## Laws to Apply Laws.

It is a queer commentary on our attitude toward our own laws that it should be regarded as necessary to consider legislation directed at forcing compliance with previously enacted legislation.

Yet this is exactly what is contemplated in the pending Wagner bill which specifies that all persons receiving Government contracts must comply with the Labor Relations Act.

Regardless of one's opinion of the merit of the Labor Relations Act, it is the law and has been upheld as constitutional by the Supreme Court. Punishment may be meted out for its violation.

To the ordinarily ingenuous citizen this would seem a condition calling for obedience by all affected parties. Yet Senator Wagner and those who are supporting the pending legislation contend that compliance with the labor relations law not only is lacking in certain quarters but is being rewarded by receipt of Government steel contracts.

The injustice of the situation is obvious if certain bidders lose contracts because compliance with the law forces their costs up and others profit because of non-compliance. And if this situation does exist then correction should be made, either by passing new laws or amending old ones.

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Policemen hesitate to use weapons. There is more honor in managing a criminal single-handed than in asserting victory in a street riot.

## Troops—or More Police?

Crime is on the rampage in Washington, says Representative McGehee of Mississippi, and he proposes that something be done about it at last—something drastic and dramatic. Bring the troops over from Fort Myer, he suggests, and let them aid the police in running the racketeers, robbers and other rogues out of town.

Mr. McGehee's sincerity in advocating what would amount to declaration of martial law in the District of Columbia cannot be questioned. He has evidenced a deep interest in cleaning up the crime situation here. He was one of the members of the House District Committee who worked for resurrection of the anti-numbers bill.

Before going to such extremes, however, why not give the local law enforcement officers a fair chance to see what they can do? They are laboring under tremendous handicaps now, handicaps which could be removed without resort to dramatic devices of any kind. Just a few days ago Mr. McGehee's colleagues on the Hill had a splendid opportunity to "do something" about the crime problem here, but they muffed it when they voted against granting Major Brown's modest request for additional policemen. It was testified that those policemen are urgently needed to augment forces assigned to a particularly lawless section of the city.

There is, in addition, a serious shortage of prosecutors and judges, a condition which Mr. McGehee's associates could remedy without invoking revolutionary methods. Not only is the district attorney's office short-handed, but its efficiency is imperiled by uncertainty over the appointment of a successor to former United States Attorney Garnett. The office is occupied temporarily by Acting District Attorney Pine, who is in the precarious position of being on trial without being accorded full facilities for acquitting himself.

New legislation, moreover, is needed to strengthen law enforcement in the Capital. Loopholes in the law enable many gamblers and racketeers to escape punishment, regardless of the efficiency of the police.

While the presence of troops in Washington might have a salutary effect on the criminal element, all the regiments of the Army would not improve the processes of prosecution and punishment unless present defects were remedied.

## Shortening the Inch.

While sociologists move to the Left, philosophers who deal with tangible realities advance consistently to the Right. The latest evidence of constructive conservatism on the part of American mathematicians may be found in their desire, expressed by Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, director of the Bureau of Standards, to shorten the inch. A bill to establish one-twelfth of a foot at exactly 25.4 millimeters has been reported by the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures of the House of Representatives. The "cut" proposed is two millionths of the whole unit—too small a fraction to be seen under even a very good glass but enough to be disconcerting to professional perfectionists concerned with the absolute truth.

For the average citizen, of course, the distinction is not important. It matters nothing to him that the inch is microscopically too long. Dr. Briggs reassures him when he says: "I wish to emphasize the fact that the change will not disturb industry in any way. Industry, from a practical standpoint, will not realize that a change has been made, because the change is too small; it is far within the limits of tolerance permitted in making industrial measurements."

It follows that no opposition to the proposed legislative adjustment has been heard. The American people in general are too busy to be bothered; politicians are too preoccupied, business men are too worried; only scientists—anxious to expand the dominion of common sense over circumstance—are interested in the problem. Perhaps they believe that an age of chaos is the best possible time for a demonstration of their devotion to accuracy. Correcting the inch, then, may symbolize something which alters, yet—like the law of the Medes and Persians—altereth not.

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An airship crash calls for patient investigation which interests the public in spite of the fact that a direct reason for the disaster is seldom made known.

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Demonstrations of motor perils continue. One of the needs of highway development is higher efficiency among those who use the thoroughfares.

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College athletics become powerful sources of popular interest and may yet be made a means of raising funds for public purposes.

## Shooting Stars.

By PHILANDER JOHNSON.

**Viewpoints.**

When I am in a taxicab
The driver's arm I almost grab
In fear that I will face distress
Through some pedestrian's carelessness.
Oh, how I hate his lofty leer
And calm disdain as we draw near.
He seems to welcome serious harm
In hope of causing me alarm.

And when the taxi I have left
Again I am of bliss bereft,
As motors throng from far and near
And almost stand me on my ear.
Of each the purpose seems to be
To strew the thoroughfare with me.
In little things, as in immense,
The viewpoint makes the difference.

**Terrestrial Movements.**

"Your antagonist resorts to scandalous insinuation."

"It's a mistake," replied Senator Sorghum. "Mere mudslinging can never be made to do the work of a landslide."

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Jud Tunkins says he likes a man with a good opinion of hisself if he honestly tries to live up to it.

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**Musings of a Motor Cop.**

Hortense Magee, in accents of despair,
Remarked on hearing the policeman's call,
"The traffic rules are still in good repair,
Although I thought that I had broke them all!"

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**Reciprocity.**

"You seem to know a great deal about politics."

"It's reciprocity," replied Farmer Corntossel. "Politicians appear to know all about farming."

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"When fault-finding becomes the fashion," said Hi Ho, the sage of Chinatown, "a wise man may pretend that he is indolent when he is only cautious."

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**From Sublime to Ridiculous.**

When in the courts the lawyers strike
A sentimental line
The old love letter sounds just like
A comic valentine.

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"De man dat thinks he knows mo' dan anybody else," said Uncle Eben, "mos' generally has mo' imagination dan information."

## Roosevelt Now Talking Against World Woes

*BY OWEN L. SCOTT.*

Signs increase that the White House now hopes to talk the country and the world out of their accumulating troubles. Words are used more and more in an attempt to jolt economic and political forces into a reversal of trend.

The result is that European statesmen are beginning quietly to accuse the United States of rocking the boat. Their apparent idea is that the President, by his comments, actually is giving Europe a case of war jitters. Europeans already were of the opinion that Mr. Roosevelt's comments on prices, made in April, 1937, upset recovery for them as well as for us.

Just why the rest of the world should begin to be disturbed by the official talk within this country is not difficult to discover.

War talk and war preparation talk is almost a semi-weekly occurrence at the White House. The deeper the depression becoms, the more the stress is placed upon armament and upon alarms warning of threats to the United States, first in the Pacific and then in the Atlantic. The constant theme is that dictators are lurking around every corner. Europeans, with enemies next door all armed and ready to pounce, discover that they are calm and collected in comparison with the rulers of a nation 3,000 miles away from any possible danger on one side and 7,000 miles away on another side.

What foreigners apparently fail to realize is that Mr. Roosevelt pretty much talked this country into one recovery—with the aid of some billions of dollars—then talked it out again when the billions were used up, and is engaged now in trying to talk another recovery. The same technique calls for words to be used to try to talk and frighten the world into an international new deal.

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A quick glance at what is happening shows this technique at work. It is aimed at getting the United States all the way back into the swim of world affairs.

Rearmament is talked up at every opportunity in White House press conferences. First the talk is of a fleet big enough to meet any emergency on one ocean and even as far away as the Philippines. Now it has jumped to a fleet big enough to meet any emergency on either coast, as a result of the February 15 press conference.

Then the President wants a law passed by Congress right away to take the profits out of the next war, which, by implication, seems to be near. He has talked about quarantining nations that have spread the war disease. A demand is made to Japan to tell of her naval building plans or to face a building race. Three American cruisers are sent to help the British dedicate their new naval base at Singapore, which is a long way from home.

An emissary of the American Navy is back from a visit to London, where he exchanged information with the British admiralty. Anthony Eden, the British foreign minister, intimates that there are relationships between his nation and the United States about which he cannot speak, even in Parliament. And the British House of Lords is told that every move by England in the Far East is made only after consultation with the American State Department.

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Mr. Roosevelt suddenly has joined in an official chorus organized to tell this country that it cannot escape foreign commitments and responsibilities. Alarms are sounded of supposed threats by dictatorships to the independence of South American nations. The country's new neutrality law is allowed to die of neglect. White House pressure is applied with all of the vigor the President can bring to bear to kill the resolution that would require a vote of the people before war could be declared except in the event of invasion.

New naval plans are based on defending the Philippines, which are supposed to gain their independence in 1946 with no further ties to this country. Secretary Hull refers to critics of the Nation's foreign policy as "irresponsible." The Secretary of State points to the need for proceeding "on parallel lines" with other nations, presumably Great Britain. Constant warnings are issued about dictatorships and their threat to democracy.

The sum total of these developments is an uncertainty and a turn of direction that has some of the President's stanchest supporters in Congress and outside deeply concerned.

They think that they see the country being pushed by Mr. Roosevelt and Cordell Hull, his Secretary of State, back into internationalism, after repeated evidences of the seeming determination of the country to try nationalism in a world gone berserk.

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At that point, a number of things impress themselves on the minds of the astounded Senators.

One is the apparent belief of President Roosevelt that he has a formula for curing the ills of the world when his administration is in the midst of very grave difficulties trying to cure the ills of the United States alone. Another is the evidence that, while Mr. Roosevelt is busily engaged in trying to save the world for democracy, the British—who are the principal object of the solicitude—are anxiously maneuvering to make a deal with the German and Italian dictatorships. It seems that Great Britain has other ideas about the way to be saved.

A third thing is the continued serenity of Sweden and Norway and Denmark and Holland in the midst of war preparations all about.

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These nations, bumped smack up against both dictatorships and democracies, have managed to get along dealing with both sides, selling their wares to all buyers possessing the cash to pay for them. They managed to stay detached from the last war, while the United States—thousands of miles away from the fighting—got dragged in. Yet the Swedes and the Norwegians and the Danes and the Dutch have resources that are just as attractive to the "have-not" nations as those of this hemisphere, and are much nearer home. They are fully as concerned as the United States with world trade. But—so far as can be discovered—these nations do not feel called upon to build huge navies or to tell other countries what form of government they should have.

Still another thing that impresses a number of Senators is the fact that, if 400,000,000 Chinese can't stop Japan on their own soil, it might be quite a costly proposition for the United States to do the stopping across 7,000 miles of ocean. There is a strong feeling that 175,000,000 Russians, with their own territory at stake, might better be left to handle that situation.

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The fact of the matter seems to be that the President is the victim of a split personality.

On the one hand, he would like to keep his mind at home, devoting himself to working out a nationalistic economy. Under this economy, the United States would set about developing its own resources, setting up whatever controls might be necessary to take the place of the once automatic controls of a free-flowing foreign trade. The Nation would continue to buy and sell abroad, but it would not concern itself with the political problems of Europe and Asia and would be prepared to cushion the shock if war abroad should upset foreign trade.

But this type of economy requires controls in industry somewhat like those now being set up in agriculture. It would bring a probable new clash over the Supreme Court and would require a much more powerful central government. Mr. Roosevelt remembers the troubles he already has had and shies from that path.

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So, on the other hand, he would like to try to use his influence to straighten out the affairs of the world so that trade again would flow evenly and backward nations would look eagerly to the rich nations to supply them with capital and with machinery. In this world, the United States would open its markets to foreigners and would try to join with Great Britain to maintain the balance of power in the world.

But this type of economy requires that America become the world banker, using its huge gold reserves to finance the hard-pressed nations and lowering its tariffs so that the borrowing nations could pay interest and principal on the loans with their goods. Then Mr. Roosevelt remembers the war loans and the foreign loans of the 1920s and he recalls the power of tariff-protected industries. That path seems blocked.

The result is that the administration actually does not know which way to turn in making its basic decision.

President Roosevelt, under the circumstances, appears to believe that, by talking fast and developing war scares, he can escape his big dilemma.



## CHANGING OPINIONS

BY THE RIGHT REV. JAMES E. FREEMAN, D. D., LL. D., D. C. L., BISHOP OF WASHINGTON.

A recent writer has affirmed that approximately "forty per cent of our population has the power to reason or initiate anything and only three per cent of the forty has outstanding ability in that respect." We do not know upon what he bases his percentages, but by the law of averages it is generally true that a minority of the population constitutes the thinking element. Illiteracy on the one hand and gross indifference on the other are the divisions into which most people may be classified. As a matter of fact, the good or the evil in corporate life proceeds from a very small minority. Most of us take our opinions from those who have the genius to shape opinions. Logic is not characteristic of the majority. In difficult situations we are largely governed by those who have strong opinions and the art of expressing them in strong terms. Our national policies that affect us vitally, our judgments concerning men and institutions, our political bias and preferences, yes, our religious beliefs and affiliations come to us very largely from those whose opinions and convictions we respect and with deference follow.

Sometimes we are amazed to discover how little we as individuals think through the convictions we tenaciously hold and vigorously proclaim. There come times when we are compelled to weigh and appraise our ideals and our so-called fixed convictions. Such a time is upon us today. Party passwords and time-honored shibboleths have lost much of their meaning, political, social and religious faiths have no longer their old dogmatic connotations. Hasty and unmatured judgments are not readily accepted. We once believed that government had to do with administration, that its concerns were largely those things that have to do with law and its enforcement and the maintenance of order. We did not conceive that it had to do with the more intimate and vital concerns of our domestic, social and industrial life. As a matter of fact, we denied it its right to intrude upon these exclusive areas of life. Child welfare, old-age pensions, the protection of workers from the exactions of long-continued and enforced idleness, and a multitude of other devices for safeguarding men and women from perils that attend their occupational life, all these are modern and have become the concern of both the State and Nation.

We are placing new values upon human life and we are coming to recognize that "a man is of more worth than a sheep." Our opinions are in process of vast changes and shall we not believe that many of the changes are for the better, stubbornly as at times we resist them. One of the virtues of a time of crisis is that, it compels us to think and to freshly appraise our opinions and our convictions. It gets us out of the rut of our individualistic and often selfish habits and forces us to see ourselves and our insular concerns in the light of their relation to our neighbors and the community as a whole. Doubtless this is what crises are for—to challenge us to reflection and the broader understanding of life in all its relationships.

The great reformations that have affected the church and shattered its conservatism have had like results. There are evidences today that some of the old molds are being broken and that fenced-off areas tenaciously guarded are giving way to new pressures. The Master of men was a true modernist, He inveighed against customs and usages long held as sacrasanct. New wine must be put into new wine skins or bottles, else the ferment would destroy the skins and the wine be lost. This was His dictum. We have been slow to recognize this, and it has cost us heavily. He was ever appealing for the adaptation of His course to meet new and urgent needs.

The best evidence we have of our intellectual growth is to be found in our capacity to adjust ourslves to changed conditions and to new concepts. A closed mind is a menace to the individual and renders growth and progress impossible. If we would keep step with the age in which we live we must be receptive to new ideas and this does not mean abandoning convictions. Let us hope we are shaping our course true to the ideals of Him whose comprehending love recognized in every type of life possibilities of redemption and the ultimate salvation of society. Truth does not change, it is eternal, but its applications change with the problems of each succeeding age.

## Fifty Years Ago In The Star

**Caught on the Tracks.**

An example of the menace to life and limb to which the residents of South Washington were exposed fifty years ago is given in a letter from a reader printed in The Star of February 15, 1888, as follows:

"I was brought face to face with the railroad problem last night. Near 9 o'clock a friend and myself were being driven to St. Dominic's Convent. Our course lay directly down Sixth street from Pennsylvania avenue. Just as we reached the railroad crossing at Virginia avenue a train of three or four cars and an engine passed. The gate between us and the passing train was not down and we heard no signal, but the driver could see the train and he waited until it had passed and was several rods from the crossing. There was no sign to indicate that the train was not going on to Baltimore, Philadelphia or New York, and after waiting a reasonable time our driver continued on his way. When half way across the network of tracks we found that the farther, or southern gate, was closed. But there was no light on it visible from where we were. Simultaneously with this discovery we saw the train backing down upon us and already quite close. By prompt action and the severe application of the whip our driver succeeded in wheeling his horse around and getting off the track by the way we came just in time to avoid being struck."

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**The Mall as a Menace.**

"A correspondent in another column," says The Star editorially in the same issue, "describes an experience, but not the first of its kind in that locality, which illustrates one of the multitude of blessings that the beneficent Baltimore & Potomac road bestows, according to its own accounts, upon South Washington. The long strip of land in which the railroad reigns despotically and in part with usurped authority, is not only an obstruction to the flow of traffic and travel, but a perpetual menace to life and limb. Years ago a stagnant, disease-breeding canal shut out South Washington from easy communication with the main city. That obstruction has been removed. At the same time the Mall, unimproved and unprotected, was infested with desperate characters and travel across this strip of land was diminished by the danger from robbers and murderers. That danger no longer exists. But the railroad section, full of surface tracks and of standing or running cars, still drags down South Washington, more dangerous to life and limb than the old Mall and a worse obstruction than the old canal. The exploration of strange and unknown regions has a certain fascination and The Star recommends to members of Congress an excursion to the edge of or into the railroad domain, promising them the sight of a region where the laws are not recognized and a taste of danger sufficiently thrilling to please the most adventurous."

## Capital Sidelights

*BY WILL P. KENNEDY.*

Few, even among those who have known him intimately for more than a quarter of a century, know that Representative Robert Crosser of Ohio, who first came to Congress in 1913, was born in Scotland and moved with his parents to Cleveland 57 years ago. He is a great admirer of the bard of Scotland, Robert Burns, for his poetic genius, but proclaims him even more as "the fearless champion of the rights of man, always the foe of oppression." Mr. Crosser himself grows poetical and philosophical in speaking of his kinsman hero Burns: "The work of most poets is like a picture painted with wonderful skill and technique, but still only a word picture. Or I might liken the work of a majority of poets to a glass which the author holds to the eye of the reader to enable him to see what the author dimly sees in the distance. The person looking through the glass does behold a beautiful scene. But in the case of Burns—he gives us in his work not a picture of life but life itself. To Burns all mankind were on the one great and only spiritual circuit and he simply closed the switch and instantly every one lived the truth and thrilled with universal love, as did Burns himself. His poems and songs were living thoughts which came streaming from the center of life as come the warm rays from the Sun."

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Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, who during his many years in the House and Senate established a reputation for being a "regular fellow." He is continuing this characteristic as cabinet premier. He was very outspoken, and in rather undiplomatic manner defended some of the foreign service employes from aspersions, before a committee of Congress, saying: "It became a sort of a fad among some people to debate the personnel of the State Department and refer to them as stuffed-shirt group of cane-carrying and spats-wearing bureaucrats. With the criticism in mind I went over the record of Engert in Ethiopia, of Wendelin and others in Spain, of our Consul General in Palestine and of our Consul General and staff in Shanghai, as well as others in various parts of the world. I noted the fine courage they exhibited in the face of extraordinary dangers, and I said—here are typical members of this 'bespatted, stuffed-shirt' group. They were abroad at their posts taking care of the most vital interests of this country at the risk of their lives, while a few critics at home were berating them and libeling the very service which they are rendering. It is a pity we cannot always have fair, decent treatment and fair play given these people who make so many sacrifices in order to serve their country."

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Some of the little worries of a Government department building superintendent were emphasized the other day by E. W. Libbey, chief clerk of the Commerce Department, to a House committee. He was urging that flexible language should be used in an appropriation bill to all small housekeeping jobs to be done as emergencies arise. He called attention to a plight of the Bureau of Fisheries, saying: "The District has been putting chlorine in the water from a health standpoint. It has had a disastrous effect on the fish. The only way to overcome that is to put in some kind of a filter that would take out the chlorine. That would cost more than $50. We could not have that done." He told of another situation: "In the photostat room where we make negatives the water is so warm in the summertime that it spoils the negatives. We have no way of cooling it. To get a refrigerator would cost about $800. We cannot do that."

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The gone are not always forgotten in political life. This was illustrated when the House Appropriations Committee paused in its consideration of State Department budget to pay tribute to Wilbur Carr, former Assistant Secretary of State and budget officer for the department. It was officially recorded that Mr. Carr "perhaps more than any one single man is responsible for the progress made in building up an effective instrument for the conduct of our foreign relations."

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The fence along the Mexican boundary about which Senator Carl Hayden of Arizona has been interesting himself for years, is not going to be rebuilt and extended during the coming fiscal year. It was discussed during hearing before the House Appropriations Committee, but the Budget Bureau turned down a request from the Boundary Commission for $94,000 for about 46 miles of various types of fence—wire fence at $1,000 a mile and city fence at $10,000 a mile.

## The Famous Forties

*BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.*

The prophecy has been advanced that the decade of 1930-1940 will go down in history as the leveling period of American life, and that the forties of the present century will parallel the fabulous forties of the last century.

No nation and no era has been without its prophets, false and true, and possibly no period in American history has brought forth so many of both kinds as the years since 1930. That all of them have meant well is a belief of the open-minded. Great changes, especially changes that bring adversity, develop a new crop of seers, each of whom considers himself a modern Moses to lead the children out of bondage. Like prophets and would-be prophets of every age, each self-appointed Moses has a following.

The first part of the prediction on the forties of the present century appears to have in it more than an element of truth. Time must be the judge of the latter part of the thought. The foretelling does bring into relief some of the great changes, industrial expansion and unparalleled days of 1840 to 1850—a most remarkable period in American history. It was in that period that horizons vanished, new stars were added to the flag, cities came into prominence, slavery pushed into the limelight, finding of a greater abundance of gold to make richer a growing Nation, and the passing of a revolutionary political regime from professionals of the old school to popularly elected representatives of the masses.

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There appears to be every indication that obstacles—economic, social and political—are receding and that an upward swing of all phases of life is in the offing. Charting out the courses of world history, unusual periods have occurred almost every hundred years, customs and traditions forming themselves into a new order, and commercial interests taking on a new and enlarged life. Such a period is believed by many to be at hand in America.

Not the least of great changes in American life beginning with 1840 was the rapid change on the political horizon—a change as great as took place in 1936, and what many predict for 1940, not necessarily because of political reasons, but because of periodic changes that appear to come in cycles in national politics.

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When Jackson and Van Buren were elected President in the years 1832 and 1836, respectively, popular votes had reached barely over a half million. Harrison, a Whig, was defeated by Van Buren in 1836, but staged a comeback in 1840. Sentiment had so changed and interest in voting had so increased that Harrison, while receiving only 548,007 popular and 73 electoral votes in 1836, received 1,275,017 popular and 234 electoral votes in 1840. In the Nation's political life this registered a radical change, and it is noticeable that no other presidential election of the period 1840 to 1850 accounted for so many electoral votes as were accorded Harrison. Polk received 170 such votes in 1844, Taylor 163 in 1848—the 200 mark not being passed again till 1852 when Pierce received 254 electoral votes. A whole decade passed before another President received as many as 200 electoral votes, Lincoln receiving 212 in 1864, which incidentally, also marked the passing for the first time of more than 2,000,000 popular votes being cast. Other striking political parallels mark most of the decades to the present time.

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A casual examination of the literature of the fabulous forties will quickly reveal that it was a period building deep and broad the roots of home life. It was the period of the home motto—"God bless our home"—and of songs extolling the virtues of homes. Godey's Magazine was the social household guide, customs of dress were undergoing a rapid transformation, society people were stepping out, and a trip on a Mississippi River steamer would enable the traveler to gather in the neighbors for a community lecture concerning the great things he had seen. Steam was becoming master and liberator of commerce, literature greatly on the increase, and the aristocrat safely perched on his imaginary throne. And while the terrible Civil War lay ahead, America had broken her shackles and was destined to become the foremost nation of the world.

The 20-year period that led up to 1840 was, in many respects, as complicated, though not so extensive, as the present two-decade period leading up to 1940. The Nation had been faced with the problem of a different and better form of transportation. Commerce was gaining, and transportation for it other than river boats and wagons was necessary. Many cities faced possible extinction due to competition which they could not meet. Interest in the country's general welfare was widespread.

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It was a period of attempted organization of industry, and finding of greater outlets for agriculture and manufactured products. As is now, the only course that could be creditably followed was the forward one, and with this as a decision, the torch of prosperity was lighted in the beginning of 1840 and continued to brighten throughout the period. Such a parallel is the prediction of many for the period 1940 to 1950.

While the East was steadily advancing industrially, and with railroads an assured success, the South was being rapidly settled by a sturdy stock who were laying solid foundations for agricultural and commercial interests. Scant attention had been given to the West, for as late as 1845, only about 400 "foreigners" were to be found in California. The water courses of the East and Middle Atlantic States seemed to offer the greatest opportunities.

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Explorers following the trails and hills in California had suspected that gold could be found. Finally, in January, 1848, a lump of gold was found at Sutter's mill. The news spread to San Francisco, letters trickled back to friends and relatives in the East. New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington papers printed some of the letters or made mention of them and the information they contained. The stories were soon confirmed and the great gold rush of the century was on. Men laughed at an offer of $10 per day for any type of work, shovels went to $10 apiece, flour to $36 per barrel, ships lost their crews, land values skyrocketed. The great gold rush was on and emigration in California was so rapidly increasing that other sections of the country began to feel the drain on their populations. Gold had attracted not only the attention of the people of the United Stats, but of other countries.

Not only did the discovery of gold in California make the West known to the world, but the effects of the metal were felt in all sections of the country, giving added impetus to the widespread developments that had been steadily increasing for 10 years.

No other period in the 19th century appears to be comparable to 1840 to 1850, for it was in these years that a rapid rise was recorded in nearly all pursuits. It was a period of great change. The approaching period of 1940 to 1950 may hold the golden key to the present century.